

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 8-14 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner has objected to claim 14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 14. Therefore, as amended, claim 1 is also allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102:

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 12 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Eichorst et al. (7,093,884). Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 15 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Obendiek (2001/0040385).

As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 is moot and should be withdrawn. Claims 2-5, 7, and 15, which depend from allowable claim 1, are also allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 8-13 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 8-13 is moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103:

Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obendiek as applied above to claims 1 and 8 and in view of Graf (5,645,309).

Claim 6 depends from allowable claim 1 and is also allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Therefore, the rejection of claim 6 is moot and should be withdrawn.

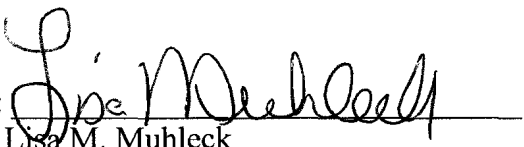
Claim 13 has been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 13 is moot and should be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, it is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9/21/09

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